

## Event 5: New Frontiers in QLR

### Child in Time

#### ABSTRACTS

**Bruce Bennett, 'Children on film, domestic drama, and Michael Winterbottom's *Everyday* (2012)'**

'The sound cinema can therefore be called "chronographic": written in time as well as in movement' – Michel Chion, 1994. *Audio-Vision: Sound on Screen* (New York: Columbia), 17

The child has always been a particularly affecting and densely symbolic figure in film and television that has been deployed to represent and examine themes of innocence, victimhood and social injustice, the dynamics of family relationships, mortality, fugitive pasts and possible futures. Children are important recurring figures, for example, within the films and TV dramas of the prolific British director Michael Winterbottom (some of whose earliest work was directing children's TV programmes) from the orphaned child refugees of *Welcome to Sarajevo* (1997), *I Want You* (1998) and *In This World* (2002) to the two sisters whose mother is killed in a car accident in *Genova* (2008). Winterbottom's work is also characterized by formal experimentation, and with his recent film about the impact of a father's imprisonment upon his family, *Everyday* (2012), the director took the extremely unusual decision to shoot the film over five years, documenting the growth and ageing of three young children and their parents during the same period in the narrative. Centred around an analysis of *Everyday*, this paper will discuss the way in which the capacity of film and television to document, dramatize and reconfigure the passage of time is crystallized in the figures of the children in this film.

### **Virginia Morrow, 'Child development and international development'**

Drawing on qualitative longitudinal research from Young Lives, a study of children growing up in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh), Peru and Vietnam (2001-2017), I will explore the contribution that QLR with children and young people can make to international development debates (academic and policy), which tend to ignore temporality, and also tend to uncritically accept some universals within developmental psychology that leads to global solutions focussed on individuals/families. This risks shifting attention away from structural factors like poverty, and widening inequalities along numerous lines of social differences.

### **Harriet Bjerrum Nielsen 'Temporal modes in children's development'**

The key argument will be the importance of including both process and time - understood as a non-linear and linear modes of temporality - in the study of children's development. With its critique of the concepts of development and socialisation, the "new sociology of childhood" substituted a linear with a non-linear concept of temporality. What was thereby lost was the perspective of historical and biographical time as a mode of temporality and not just a signification of cultural context. To illustrate this point, I will draw on a longitudinal study where I followed children from they were 7 til 23.

### **Mary Robson, 'Ten years and counting . . .'**

The influential community arts in health and education project, Roots and Wings, recently closed its doors after ten years. The project's artists have worked year-round with pupils, their families, school staff and the wider community to foster social and emotional development and encourage cultural change through new traditions that mark significant moments in the life of the community. What is sustained? What are the impacts on children's lives, and how do they view their involvement in such an established project over a decade?

### **Pamela Thurschwell "'Keep your back to the Future'"**

My paper will focus broadly on the relationship between adolescence, anachronism, and time travel. I'll look at some literary and filmic examples of the ways in which representative adolescents and adolescent subcultures have identified with the past or the future (ranging from Henry James to the mods to Michael J. Fox via the Frankfurt school). If there is a recurrent sense that youth often demand a different time than the one they are born into, what are the consequences for the contemporary moment when neo-liberal narratives of economic growth and development seem to be waning or collapsing? When the promise of a better life than the ones your parent lived seems to be receding? Where does the Future go?